



Figure 210 – The Albert Tavern, later renamed The Prince Albert, and the Albert Gate to Battersea Park, Albert Bridge Road

Three Crystal Palace players were among those in the upstairs rooms at the Albert Tavern on that day – getting changed to play in this first-ever official game under Football Association rules. Alfred Lloyd turned out for the Secretary's Team; Walter Cutbill and James Turner for the President's Team.

The Albert Bridge, discernable at the vanishing point in the modern photograph above, wasn't yet built in 1864. We see the viewpoint of the photo in Figure 210, at the point of the red arrow in the map in Figure 211 below:

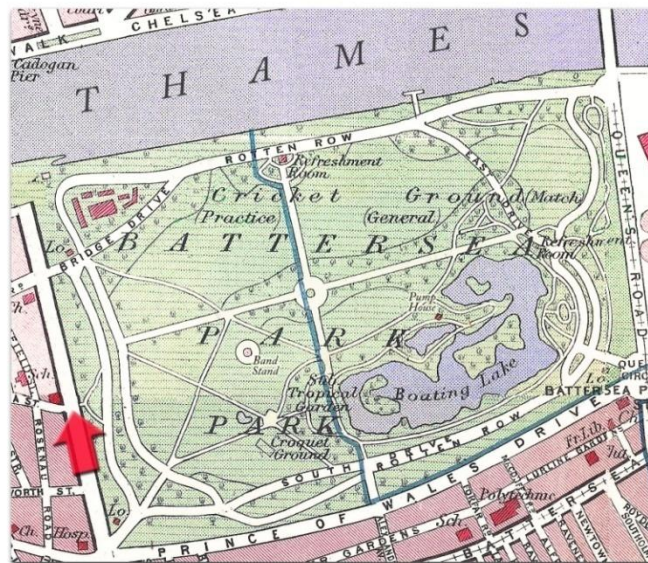


Figure 211 – Viewpoint of the photograph in Figure 210

Exactly where in Battersea Park that 'test' game of Association Football took place is not recorded, but... let's have a good look at the map in Figure 211. Two of the smaller lawns on the south side of the park are just about big enough for a full-size football pitch, but are otherwise probably unsuitable, and the match-day cricket pitch, which is the field in the north-east corner, well, that wouldn't be the first choice.

So it's quite likely that the game was played on the cricket practice area on the north side of the park. Yes, that sounds right. It's one of the places where football practice is still played today.

Crystal Palace's James Turner, who was soon to become Treasurer of the Football Association, played in the game, so now is the perfect time to get to know him...